

CLASSIFICATION SECRETCOUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

TOPIC Military Activities at the Schweinrich Training Grounds Wittstock
and at the Neuruppin Post.

EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

25X1

DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 24 August 1955

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

25X1

1. On 16 and 17 July 1955, the area of Lake Dranse was restricted because of firing practices of amphibious tanks, 18 of which were observed in the lake. The turrets of the tanks could definitely be made out. The vehicles were swimming, since the lake was too deep for them to drive. Reports of guns were heard from the lake.
2. At about 0400 on 7 August, tanks, artillery, AT guns, rocket launchers and SP guns were being assembled in the Braunsberg-Zechow-Schwanow-Zuehlen area. Some 40 T-34, T 34/85, T-54 and JS-3 tanks, 4 JSU-152 guns, 8 rocket launchers and a large number of two and three-axle armored personnel carriers were observed. It was noted that the assembly included only a few trucks which towed field kitchens or carried water containers and ammunition but no troops. At about 0330 on 8 August, the units started to advance westward. After a short time, the vehicles were dug in, before they resumed driving. This was repeated three times, while the unit proceeded toward the training grounds. The exercise terminated at about noon on 12 August. All vehicles proceeded northward. Water supply was carried on the trucks. No water was furnished from the villages. No live ammunition was used.
3. Between 30 July and 12 August, the barracks installations of the Neuruppin post were not occupied to capacity. The units from the Fridericus (2205), Friedrich Franz (2201) and See Kasernen (2203) were presumably absent for exercises.
4. Between 19 June and 10 August, the Schweinrich training grounds was heavily occupied by tanks, artillery and AT guns. Between 0500 and 2000, heavy firing was almost daily heard from the direction of Schweinrich toward Jaegerpfuhl. In early July, it was also fired at targets in the Weheberge (hills). Most of the reports came from tank guns. It appeared that several units were being rotated to the training grounds for periods of about 14 days. After one day without firing, firing started again. On 3 August, 6 trucks towing 57-mm AT guns were seen en route from the direction of Neuruppin toward the training grounds.

25X1

25X1

SECRET

- 2 -

5. Between 2030 and 2100 on 10 August, 30 trucks towing 37-mm AA guns came from the direction of Fretzdorf. Some proceeded toward Paulsdorf and some toward ~~Jaegerpfuhl~~ Jaegerpfuhl.³

1. [REDACTED] 25X1

2. [REDACTED] Comment. [REDACTED] the units which engaged in the exercise on 7 August belonged to the 12th Gds Tank Div. from Neuruppin. The development of the exercise, the repeated digging-in also of heavy weapons and vehicles, the observation that troops were carried on armored personnel carriers exclusively, and the fact that drinking water was carried along indicate that the units to a large extent, were not dependent on the road system and that the exercise concentrated on increased protection against effects by weapons, including atomic weapons. ✓

3. [REDACTED] Comment. [REDACTED] 2 shipments [REDACTED] 25X1
[REDACTED] went from Wuensdorf to Fretzdorf on 9/10 August. 25X1

25X1

SECRET

25X1